

**REMARKS**

This application has been amended in a manner that is believed to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 16-33 are pending in the present application. By way of the present amendment, claims 30-33 have been added. Claims 30-33 further characterize the claimed oxidized carbohydrate. The claims recite that aldehyde and carboxyl acid functions are both present in the claimed oxidized carbohydrate. Support for claims 30-33 may be found in the present specification at page 2, line 2, and page 4, line 7.

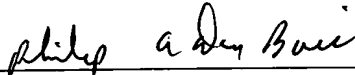
As LEROY et al. and BATTISTA et al. both fail to disclose or suggest an oxidized carbohydrate with the claim monoaldehyde-monocarboxylic groups, applicants believe that the publications fail to render obvious claims 30-33. As a result, applicants believe that claims 30-33 are allowable.

As noted in the amendment of May 7, 2004 that has been made of record with the filing of the Request for Continued Examination, applicants believe that claims 16-21 are also allowable. Thus, in view of the present amendment and the amendment of May 7, 2004, applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action. Allowance and passage to issue on that basis is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. \$1.16 or under 37 C.F.R.\$1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



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